REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application are requested.

By way of the amendment instructions above, pending independent claim 1 has been revised so as to emphasize that the end parts of the cable are connected to one another. The amended version of claim 1 also clarifies that a force is exerted on the end parts with the help of a device so as to bring the cable under a tension required for tying together the objects, the tensioned cable thereby being locked against the influence of forces acting counter to the exerted force. Support for such claim amendments may be found on pages 4 and 5, for example at page 4, lines 4-5 (the end parts are connected together by knotting); page 4, lines 29-30 (the end parts are connected together by shoving the device through the eyes of the end parts of the cable); and page 5, lines 1-2 (a gap is bridged between the end parts by the device).

In a similar manner, independent claim 19 has been revised so as to clarify that the end parts of the surgical cable are connected together. Claims 21 and 22 are new and require the connection of the end parts to be made via knotting or splicing, respectively. Support for such new claims is present, for example, at page 3, lines 19-20 and page 4, lines 4-5.

Thus, claims 1-22 remain pending herein for which favorable reconsideration and allowance are requested.

The only issues remaining to be resolved in this application are the Examiner's rejections advanced principally on the basis of the applied Dunn et al reference (USP 4,790,850). Specifically, prior claims 1-15 and 17-20 attracted a rejection under 35 USC §102(b) as allegedly anticipated by Dunn et al, while claim 16 was separately rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Dunn et al in view of

Crouch et al (USP 4,788,814). Applicants respectfully suggest that neither Dunn et al nor Crouch et al is an appropriate reference against the claims presented above.

Applicants note that the end parts of the Dunn et al cable are ***not*** connected together. Instead, Dunn et al teach that an eye is provided at each end of the cable, and that each eye is ***separately*** secured by a screw. Thus, Dunn et al explicitly teach that the eyes at each end of the cable are not connected to one another.

One problem that is encountered when cable ends are tied together is that the knot used for tying such ends of the cable together cannot withstand the high tensile forces that are present in the cable. This problem cannot of course occur in the cable of Dunn et al since both ends are not tied together. To the contrary, each end is secured by a screw.

According to the present invention, the cable end parts are connected together. Only after the cable end parts are connected is the cable tensioned with the help of a device, following which the tensioned cable is locked. Because of this sequence of actions, the load of the cable is not fully exerted on the connected end parts which explains why the problems normally caused by knotted end parts are not encountered with the technique of the present invention. This is not the case in Dunn et al since there is no knot in Dunn et al that is released form most of the tension in this way.

Thus, an ordinarily skilled person having Dunn et al before him/her would not be lead to the presently claimed invention. Moreover, one would not combine Dunn et al and Crouch et al since the former teaches directly against connection of the cable end parts. Hence, withdrawal of all rejections of record are in order.

Every effort has been made to advance prosecution of this application to allowance. Therefore, in view of the amendments and remarks above, applicant

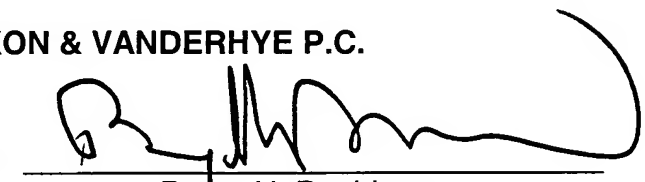
suggests that all claims are in condition for allowance and Official Notice of the same is solicited.

Should any small matters remain outstanding, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the Applicants' undersigned attorney so that the same may be resolved without the need for an additional written action and reply.

An early and favorable reply on the merits is awaited.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: 

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